

A Need in Atlanta

John Hope, A.M.

President Atlanta (Ga.) Baptist College. At Clifton Conference, August 19, 1908

PROFESSOR MORGAN, of Fisk University, visited our school a year ago and said we had the best Bible class she was ever in.

We teach the Bible from the lower grades up through the junior year. If a student has it up to that time, he will get safely

through the senior year. Students study different topics each year. The Bible is taught by one teacher, Mrs. Smith, who has charge of this department. She is the mother of two boys and is in great sympathy with the work. Mr. Vanderman teaches the college course and high-grade pupils.

If this course is introduced into our college, it will be introduced on the understanding that it will not be required of the students

to take it. I feared this might make the International Board decide against us and against sending a man there, but I will remind them that out of one hundred and thirty-five scholars last year, ninety took the Bible course offered by the Young Men's Christian Association. It is our desire to make men. We don't want to have a smattering method, and we do not want to turn pupils out unless they are thoroughly grounded, and it has become so much a part of them that they will use it in their after life. It is our aim to so shape their characters that they will choose the right thing for themselves. We do not believe in compulsion. If the boys and girls are allowed to take a course as they desire, this new movement will be of great value.

"Get the Very Best Man"

I rode once eight hundred miles to talk with a man I wanted for the faculty of Atlanta Baptist

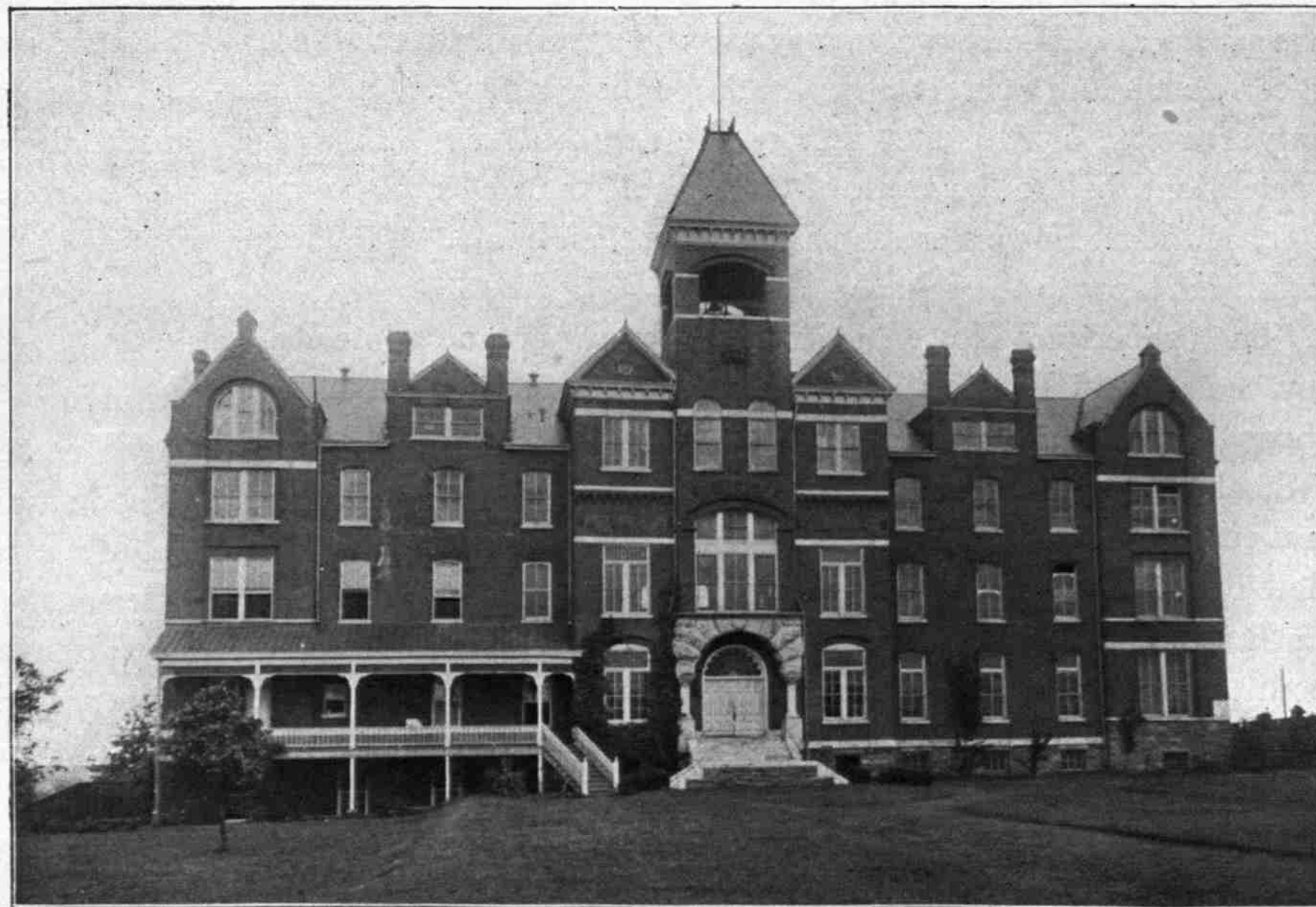
College. I have just as much interest in getting the right man for this place. I don't believe that you will be any less careful to get just the very best man. I will welcome such a man as that, who, in addition to scholarship, has that manhood and brain that will make young men. A man like that would be welcome, but he must teach Sunday-school methods. If he comes to teach the Bible as we teach it, he will be interfering with our work. We want a man to teach Sunday-school methods.

The Question of Denominations

I wouldn't press the matter of denomination, especially if the man taught Sunday-school methods. Of course if he began to teach dogma, I would begin to visit his classes and see if he was serving up the right thing to the boys. But the thing we want is the man who will come in there and take hold of that department. Our boys go out to teach Sunday-schools every Sunday, and there is extra time taken in study for this; they also supply Sunday-schools with teachers. The boys make a report of what they do.



John Hope, A.M.



GRAVES HALL, ATLANTA BAPTIST COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GA.

Two hundred and thirty-eight students and 14 teachers enrolled in 1908. Theological students, 30. Annual expenses, \$18,000, one third provided by American Baptist Home Mission Society, the remainder by friends. Value of property, \$80,000. Endowment, \$20,000.